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guished artist, full of spirit and grace, and two hundred and fifty medals of Trumbull, by WRIGHT, universally considered to be the best as yet executed by that gentleman. Every subscriber will be entitled to a copy of SMILLIE's large line engraving of *Youth*, being the second of COLE's series of the *Voyage of Life*, and also to a set of six etchings in outline by DARLEY, illustrating Mr. IRVING's *Legend of the Sleepy Hollow*. We have seen the sketches for these outlines, and we confidently predict they will secure the general admiration of the community and a still larger measure of fame than their author has yet received. We desire to remind all who intend to subscribe the present year, to do so IMMEDIATELY, as the operations of the Committee will be greatly retarded and the interest of the members prejudiced by any delay in this duty.

WHAT WILL THE AMERICAN ART-UNION ACCOMPLISH?

WE gave an account, in our last number, of the past history and present condition of the American Art-Union, and of what it had already accomplished in developing artistic talent and popular taste. We now propose to discuss its future prospects and the duty of the public in regard to it.

A slight examination of the statistics of the institution, shows that notwithstanding its actual prosperity, its operations may still be largely extended. The organization is such, that with a little additional activity on the part of the Honorary Secretaries, the number of members may be easily doubled or trebled. This is proved by the returns from some of the most industrious of these officers, who have in several instances sent to the Committee the names of more than a thirtieth part of the inhabitants of their respective localities. At this rate the city of New-York should furnish nearly fifteen thousand members, instead of five thousand. We state this to show the results which the system is capable of producing. It is not probable that any thing like it will be accomplished for a long time to come. It will be difficult to find agents in every place as energetic as those alluded to above, and causes must always exist beyond the control of the society which will occasion fluctuations in the subscription of particular communities. Neither is it desirable, that so large an amount should be immediately appropriated to the support of the Fine Arts in America. A more gradual increase of the stimulus to production will produce a more healthy development of talent, and time and care are required to educate a community in the principles of taste.

It is evident, however, that notwithstanding all drawbacks and difficulties, if the agents are only moderately industrious, the future means

of the Association for promoting the cause to which it is devoted, will be considerably increased.

With such an impulse, the public may rely upon an enlargement of the benefits of the Art-Union much beyond what it confers at present. This would be the result not of the addition to the receipts alone, but of the moral influence of success. Every year of prosperity would take away from that fleeting and temporary character, which the want of a permanent fund has a tendency to confer upon all societies established on this plan. The continued expression of confidence on the part of the public, will manifest itself in the greater excellence of the engravings, medals, and other objects prepared for the subscribers. The Committee intend that no other Art-Union in the world shall excel ours in the quality, the number, or the variety of the works to be distributed to all the members, and that these alone shall always form, in the judgment of impartial men, a sufficient equivalent for the subscription money, without including the chance in the annual allotment of paintings. In addition to this, the advancing prosperity of the Institution would justify the Managers in embarking in enterprises for the advancement of Art much more extensive and important than any which they have hitherto undertaken.

We think we can state specifically what some of these will be.

1. The BULLETIN will probably be enlarged and improved. It may be made to promote much more effectually than it does at present the objects of the Society. An addition to its size and number of pages, will enable us to give our readers fuller views of the progress of Art, at home and abroad, to make much more copious selections from European journals, and perhaps, also, to republish extracts from valuable foreign books, which would not, in the usual course of things, be reprinted here. A correspondence with the chief centres of artistic effort—Paris, Munich, Düsseldorf, Rome, London and other cities—has been projected. An opportunity would be afforded by this enlargement to encourage lithography, etching and wood engraving, by publishing both copies of pictures in the gallery and original designs. It is also supposed that manufacturers would eagerly embrace this opportunity to give to the public representations of many of their productions which possess artistic merit, as is done in the London Art-Journal, thus contributing to the embellishment of the Bulletin, and at the same time extending a knowledge of what is being effected by American Art in its connection with every-day life. The position of the Institution would enable it to publish such a journal as this, with much more advantage to its members

than if the project were undertaken by an individual, for these, among other reasons, that the actual cost of the work only would be deducted from the funds, and the sales to non-subscribers might be relied upon to furnish a considerable sum towards defraying the expense.

This improvement of the BULLETIN would also be of advantage by promoting early subscriptions to the Society, and keeping alive, on the part of the public, an interest in its operations. The periodical appearance of such a journal would gratify newly awakened curiosity in Art matters, and go far in the rural districts towards supplying the want of regular exhibitions.

2. Many of the Secretaries have lately requested that a number of paintings should be sent to them to be shown in their respective localities, and have assured the Committee that the interests of the Society would be greatly promoted thereby. It has always been one of the features of the Art-Union to exhibit, for a certain period, such works of Art as may have fallen to the lot of the inhabitants of a particular place in the office of the Honorary Secretary residing there. The Committee have also sometimes sent paintings to be shown in other cities previous to their distribution, when the state of the Gallery in New-York, and a due regard for the safety of the works thus dispatched, have permitted it. If the Institution should continue to prosper, the number and value of these auxiliary exhibitions will probably be increased. In the summer, when the danger and delay of transportation will be greatly diminished, and a sufficient number of other works shall have been obtained to make the gallery attractive; several paintings may thus be sent to other cities for the gratification of members residing therein.

It must be distinctly understood, however, that in no case will this be attempted unless it can be accomplished without material risk. If the works to be thus displayed were the property of the Managers, and were sent about for the purpose of obtaining subscribers to a private speculation of their own, but little concern would be felt for their safety, as a policy of insurance would cover all losses. But the pictures in the Gallery of the American Art-Union are the property of the members, and the Managers have no right to allow them to depart from their control, unless a regard for the well-being of the institution should clearly require it.

It is also to be remembered that a large part of the subscribers reside in the rural districts, to any considerable number of which it would be manifestly impossible to send any works for exhibition. Many of these persons come once every year to New-York, and it would be clearly

wrong to deprive them of their only opportunity of seeing at any rate the principal works in the Gallery. So far, however, as a due regard for the safety of the pictures and for the rights of all the members will permit, the wishes of the Honorary Secretaries in regard to this subject will, probably, in future be complied with.

3. One of the results of an increase of the annual subscription would be an addition to the departments of Art especially encouraged by the Society. It is safe to say that casting in bronze will receive more attention than heretofore. The Statuette which has been modelled by Mr. Brown, and of which twenty copies in the material just named are to be included in the distribution of the present year, is eminently satisfactory to the Committee, particularly when it is remembered that this is the first work of its kind ever executed in America. It seems to be a work of supererogation to state, also, that another result of advancing prosperity would be a more liberal encouragement of the higher walks of Art than the Society has hitherto been able to bestow. It has done, comparatively speaking, but little as yet in the department of sculpture, and scarcely anything in that of historical painting in which figures of life-size are introduced. We hope that the day may arrive when it shall feel authorized to expend a portion of its revenue in the encouragement of these most noble modes of displaying artistic power. It will never be desirable, perhaps, to devote to such purposes the larger part of the yearly receipts, but objects of so much dignity and importance, certainly deserve a liberal appropriation from a society which takes the foremost place in this country in the encouragement of Art. The fact that the works of which we speak are too expensive, and in some cases too large, to serve as ornaments to the houses of a great majority of the members, should never be mentioned as an argument against their *occasional* purchase. The propriety and importance of decorating public places with painting and sculpture are universally admitted, and the chief objections urged against such ornaments is their expense. If some particular work of high art should be too bulky to suit the domestic establishment of the person to whom it should be allotted, he would probably be willing to dispose of it to some public body at a price which, although far below its true value, would be as much as could be obtained for it in the present state of the market. In this way the Art-Union would accomplish the two great objects of enabling genius to attempt the loftiest enterprises, and of associating Art with the most important and dignified transactions of life, with the pursuits of religion, justice, commerce, education and charity. An instance in point of this bene-

ficial effect of our operations is already afforded in the case of Mr. Cole's paintings of the Voyage of Life, which have been purchased at a reasonable rate of the gentleman to whom they were allotted in December last, and which now form the principal ornaments of a highly respectable literary institution in this city. This, then, seems to us to be properly enumerated as one of the ways in which the Art-Union may bestow great additional benefits upon the country.

There are other plans relating to the future action of the Society which are not yet sufficiently matured to be brought before the public, but which are of great value and importance, and of the highest interest in connection with its efforts to establish an American School. It is enough to say, that if they should be realized, they would probably countervail most of those obstacles to the development of the Fine Arts amongst us which result from the youth of the nation, the want of large private fortunes, the absence of state and ceremony in public affairs, and other causes peculiar to our political and social circumstances. Those persons who understand the organization of the Art-Union, and the facility with which it may extend its operations, and who see at the same time how much is needed to elevate this country to as high a position in Art as is enjoyed by many other inferior nations, must believe that our Institution, however beneficial its influence may have been, has not yet accomplished a tithe of the advantages which it is destined to confer. In view of these great prospective benefits and of the large amount of good which it has already performed, the Committee believe that they may confidently appeal in its behalf to the patriotic sentiment of the people, as well as to those less disinterested motives which are usually addressed in this connection. They entreat the members to consider the cause in which we are laboring as one of great national importance, and to give as liberal a support to it by good words and contributions as they give to any other large enterprise for promoting the welfare of society.

"THE INTERNATIONAL ART-UNION."

SINCE the last number of this journal was prepared for the press, a discussion has arisen in the newspapers respecting the claims of a mercantile firm to public support, under the pretence of being an "Institution" for the encouragement of Art. As early as February of the present year, the Committee were informed that letters had been addressed by Messrs. Goupil, Vibert & Co., the firm in question,